



THE SPIRIT

Air Force Association Florida

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Falcon Chapter will host 2016 State Convention July 14-16 at Lexington Hotel in Jacksonville

The Falcon Chapter 399 will be holding the Air Force Association Florida Convention at the Lexington Hotel Riverwalk in Jacksonville on the beautiful St. Johns River on July 14, 15 and 16.

The convention will be an opportunity to share a vision of the future of the AFA in Florida, prescribe antidotes to a general decline in membership and seek new volunteers for leadership positions.

"I am going to propose at the state convention that we recommend we close the Evenson, McCarthy and Highlands Chapters. If I do that, I will have to propose how those members will be divided up among the remaining chapters," Florida AFA President Bill Yucuis said. *(See Bill's column on page 2.)*

For early bird arrivals for the convention, there will be a free wine tasting at the Peninsular Condominiums located on the St. Johns River just a short walk down the Riverwalk from the Lexington, according to Bruce A. Fouraker, Falcon Chapter convention chairman.

The convention host chapter will have wine and cheese available for the members who decide to check in on Thursday and spend an extra day in Jacksonville.

On Friday, members of the AFA attending the convention will take a short walk down to the Riverwalk next to the hotel where a cruise boat and dinner will be served.

Breakfast vouchers are included in the cost of the room, and after breakfast on Saturday, the business meeting will start. Midday lunch will include the recognition of the state's top CyberPatriot teams and a speech by a leading politician, business person or military expert.

While the afternoon business session is taking place, spouses of those in session can attend a fashion show put on by the Petunia Patch. This leads up to dinner and more awards as well as the keynote speaker. The weekend will wind down with casual conversation in the hospitality suite after the awards dinner.

The convention will be packed with fun activities and a good time should be had by all.

The deadline for registering was June 10, and the convention hosts cannot guarantee the availability of hotel rooms for reservations received after this date. By directly paying the chapter, participating members could save room and sales taxes totaling 13 percent. Room rates include two breakfast tickets and free self-parking.

Members who wish to attend the convention and have not yet registered, should call Bruce, 904-737-2379, or email brucea_fouraker@bellsouth.net.



The 2016 Florida AFA Convention will be held at the Lexington Hotel and Convention Center along the St. Johns River in Jacksonville July 14-16.

I have been an AFA Life Member since I was a first lieutenant and flying F-4s, which means that was a long time ago. I joined primarily for the life insurance benefits and I liked the Air Force Magazine. After retiring in 1994, I moved to Orlando and began a teaching career. In 2002, I was hired to develop a four-year high school aerospace engineering track for a district Engineering Magnet Program. Like most education initiatives, there was little money to accomplish this task and I remembered the Air Force Association had educator grants, so I applied and received it. The Central Florida Chapter VP for Aerospace Education at the time was Richard Ortega. For those of you who never had the privilege of knowing Richard, he was the Energizer Bunny of AFA recruitment and personally recruited more AFA members than anyone I have ever met. Richard would invite every AFA grant winner to attend a chapter meeting so I went to my first chapter meeting. I attended a few more and soon Richard drew me into helping out with AFA education programs. The point of this little story is I would have never gotten involved with AFA without the individual initiative of one person. The only way AFA can solve the current membership decline is for individuals, myself included, to take the initiative and ask one person to join or renew with AFA. Then ask that individual to do one small thing with the chapter and encourage them to find a "niche" in AFA where they can use their talents to improve AFA and the country.

I attended my first AFA National Convention about 12 years ago. It wasn't until I attended a couple of National Conventions that I began to understand the impact and importance of AFA, both nationally and locally. It is one of the reasons Florida took the initiative two years ago to encourage more chapter members to attend their first national convention. Florida had already reimbursed all Florida delegates \$100 but now for first-time attendees, Florida will reimburse the member an additional \$400. It is also why Florida has been a leader in submitting candidates for the AFA Emerging Leaders Program, where members learn about AFA National by being a member of a National Committee and interacting personally with AFA national leaders.

When I attended my first national convention, AFA was in the midst of changing the entire organizational structure. At the time, I didn't know the old structure so I could only sit back and listen while AFA members debated and discussed the pros and cons of changing from a

Veteran's organization to an Education non-profit. It was a tumultuous couple of conventions before it was finally approved. At the Region Presidents meeting in May, Scott Van Cleef, AFA Chairman of the Board, asked the Region Presidents if it might be time to reexamine the AFA structure again and see if there is a better way of doing business. Because this would be a multi-year arduous task, Scott asked us to go poll the AFA states and chapters to see if they felt such an endeavor should be undertaken. We will discuss this at the State Convention in July. I

personally think it is time to discuss it.

In my 14 or so years of being active in AFA Florida, I have seen at least three chapters become inactive when their chapter president either died or became unable to perform the duties. These presidents were dedicated AFA members doing the best they could to keep AFA relevant in

their respective regions but had become "President for Life." The "active" chapter membership in these chapters had been dwindling to the point where there was no plan for replacing this one individual should they relinquish their post. The solution is Leadership Development, which is nebulous term and not easy to define. Of course, this is tied directly to membership because if new members are not recruited, there generally is no way to develop new leaders. This is also occurring at the state level to some extent. Ernie Webster has been State Treasurer for nine years and it is time for a replacement. It has been an arduous task to find a candidate to take on these responsibilities but I am pleased to announce that Gary Lehmann has agreed to run for State Treasurer. The State Leadership Development plan is for me to be State President for another year and Sharon Branch to be State Vice President next year and then become State President after me. Susan Ault-Davis has agreed to be State Secretary another year also. I hope to leave this year's State Convention with a plan for the two years after that. That means we need to identify the next State President candidate after Sharon and the next State Secretary after Susan. Let's not wait until the last minute to beg people to move into these positions. The same goes for Emerging Leaders. Chapters should begin looking for potential candidates for 2017 and beyond. The Florida Region can recommend two candidates each year. It is an opportunity for AFA Florida members to find out what AFA is all about.

As AFA State President, I am going to propose at State

(Continued on the next page)



From the President

Bill Yucuis' view Of AFA Florida

*By Bill Yucuis
President, AFA Florida*

From the President

(Continued from the previous page)

Convention that we recommend we close the Evenson, McCarthy, and Highlands Chapters. If I do that, I will have to propose how those members will be divided up among the remaining chapters. Given the size of these chapters, there is no easy solution to this. Every chapter needs to realize they will probably be "assigned" new members which we all know cannot be adequately serviced, but there is no provision for "Member-At-Large." This, by the way, was one of the discussion items at the Region Presidents meeting. Namely, maybe AFA needs to have some provisions for "virtual" members not tied to a geographic area because they cannot personally attend local chapter meetings. Already, most chapters have such a large geographic area that only a "core" area provides the

majority of active Chapter members.

Let me end on a more positive note (I think). Florida has some of the most active and accomplished chapters in AFA. That is why Florida has been recognized numerous times as the Best State organization in AFA. The articles in this Spirit show some of their great accomplishments done throughout Florida. Every chapter has its own unique character and talents and they need to continue to build on those. In an ideal world, every chapter would have enough active members to work all the areas of AFA, such as Air Power Advocate, Membership, Education, Government Affairs, Veterans Affairs, and many more. I only ask chapter leaders to continue the great work you do but look to the future. Where will AFA Florida be five years from now? 10 years? I hope Florida will continue to be recognized as the Best State organization in AFA. That can't happen by what I do but what all of us do together.



Gold Coast Chapter Supports UAV Team

On Saturday, May 7, International Drone Day, Florida Atlantic University held a National Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Championship Competition.

Competitive teams were challenged with programming their drones through an obstacle course, time trial slalom, and search and rescue maze with coding presentation.

Virginia Knudsen, former Florida AFA State Teacher of the Year and current State VP for Aerospace Education, is the team coach for the Parkway Middle School team.

Winning a trophy in every event, Ms. Knudsen stated that "Parkway's UAV Team Zeus and Team Icarus came home with a total of seven trophies, earning 1st Place Overall Performance in the Middle School

Division. The teams were dedicated to learn new programming skills to support their aviation-flight expertise."

The teams would like to express appreciation to our sponsors, Air Force Association Gold Coast and team parents, Dr. Gamarra and Mr. Weldon, who assisted with team training and competition support.

Florida AFA Teacher of the Year "Turns Heads"

by Sharon Branch, VP, Aerospace Education

Dr. Suzanne Halverson, the 2016 Central Florida Chapter AFA Teacher of the Year, is the Florida AFA Teacher of the Year and has been submitted to the Air Force Association for the national Teacher of the Year Award.

Dr. Halverson teaches at Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School. Her junior and senior classes include science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) research, medical terminology, and honors anatomy and physiology.

A dynamic teacher, Dr. Halverson aligned the curriculum at her school with national standards to strengthen the STEM program. This helped students realize the real-world applications of STEM as they decide on their future careers. Among these are two key career paths with rapidly increasing potential: bio-engineering and robotics.

Dr. Halverson recently guided her students as they built an open remotely operated vehicle underwater exploration robot. They even used a 3D printer to manufacture parts of the robot. The students conducted research as a part of underwater explorations, and produced a student documentary video which will compete in the 2016 Blue Ocean Film Festival and Conservation Summit in St. Petersburg. These same students will also compete in the Marine Advanced Technology Education International Underwater Robotic Engineering Competition.

With the help of the Robotic Assisted Microsurgical Endoscopy Society (RAMSES), Dr. Halverson developed a Scholarobotic Academy. Her students also participated in a research project at a robotics institute in the operating room using a current medical robotic system. Fifteen of her students recently traveled to Strasbourg, France to present their perspectives to the RAMSES conference.

Dr. Halverson employs cooperative learning techniques in the classroom which ensure engagement and "buy-in" from her students. They are challenged by both her assignments and assessments. These encourage key learning skills including creativity, clinical

critical thinking, writing, and drawing. Students in the honors anatomy and physiology courses are taught at college level.

Dr. Halverson guides students in medical competitions, contests and challenges, science and engineering fairs, etc. Her knowledge is in demand as she is often asked to judge many events. Also, she often is asked to make presentations at professional conferences directed toward enhancement of education programs offered to students preparing for STEM careers and collegiate success. These presentations were also included in the workforce education center expo.



Dr. Suzanne Halverson, a teacher at Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School in Winter Haven, is the AFA Florida Teacher of the Year and has been nominated for AFA Teacher of the Year. She teaches high school juniors and seniors science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) classes as well as research, medical terminology, and honors anatomy and physiology.



"Netrunners," Naval Sea Cadets of Winter Park, Are All Services Division CyberPatriot Champions

The "Netrunners" of Centurion Battalion of the Naval Sea Cadets from Winter Park, coached by Ken Steffey, are the 2016 CyberPatriot All Services National Champions.

In addition, two other Winter Springs High School Army JROTC teams, the "Open Sorcerers" and the "CyberBears," were among the 13 national finalists in the All Services Division. In the Open Division, another team from Winter Springs High School, the "Wizard Squad," finished

as the number 2 team in the Southeast Region, which was the highest ranked Florida Open Division team.

AFA Florida extends its congratulations to all of the CyberPatriot VIII national finalists on their incredible performance at the national finals competition in Baltimore on April 11-13.

The 12 Open Division and thirteen All Service Division National Finalist teams competed within in their divisions in the Network Security Master Challenge (with the AT&T Mobile

Device Component), the Cisco Networking Challenge, the Leidos Digital Forensics Challenge, and the Facebook Challenge. The three Middle School Division teams, meanwhile, went head-to-head in the Network Security Master Challenge and the Cisco Networking Challenge.

The *Netrunners* and *CyberBears* will be recognized at the Florida State Convention on July 16 as the top Florida Cyber Patriot teams in their respective divisions.

Feb. 4, 2016, marked the 70th Anniversary of

the Air Force Association. Founded in 1946 to "keep the gang together," as General Jimmy Doolittle put it, the AFA's history is filled with monumental achievements. It was AFA that led the efforts to establish the Air Force as a separate service. It was AFA that played instrumental roles in founding the Community College of the Air Force and creating the program we now call the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. And it was AFA that played a pivotal role in approval and building of the Air Force Memorial whose soaring steel spires tower above the Washington D.C. skyline and remind all who see it of the service and sacrifice of America's Airmen. At the national level, AFA is the collective voice which leads the discussion on key issues affecting the U.S. Air Force, airpower and national defense, and the Air Force family. — *From Waterman-Twining Chapter 316 Tampa AFA Flight Lines, March 31, 2016*





2016 Florida State Drill Meet

Photos Courtesy of Larry Belge



The Sarasota-Manatee Chapter of the Air Force Association hosted a showing of the movie "Lone Survivor" on April 9 at the Regal Hollywood 20 Theater in downtown Sarasota.

Thanks to the generosity of the Regal Cinema, the chapter was able to offer the showing free of charge to veterans of all services in two-county area. Approximately 50 – 60 chapter members, veterans and guests attended.

Taken from a *The New York Times* bestseller, this story of heroism, courage and survival is based on a true incident. It tells the story Marcus Luttrell, a part of a four-man Navy SEAL team who were sent on Operation Redwing, an ill-fated covert mission in late June 2005. Tasked to capture or kill notorious Taliban leader Ahmad Shah in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan, Marcus and his team are left to fight for their lives when they are discovered by local shepherds.

Luttrell was the only survivor of an extraordinary firefight that produced the largest loss of life in American Navy SEAL history. His squad mates fought valiantly beside him until he was the only one left, blasted by an RPG into a place where his pursuers could not find him. Over the next four days, terribly injured and presumed dead, Luttrell crawled for miles through the mountains and was taken in by sympathetic villagers who risked their lives to keep him safe from surrounding Taliban warriors until he was rescued by friendly forces.

A post-movie presentation focused on Air Force Special Operations and featured Brig. Gen. Gwyn Armfield and CMSgt. (Select) Brad Reilly. General Armfield is currently the vice director for Strategy, Plans and Pro-

Sarasota Chapter honors veterans with free showing of "Lone Survivor"



CMSgt. (Sel) Brad Reilly (left) and Brig. Gen. Gwyn Armfield (right) followed the movie *Lone Survivor* with a presentation that focused on Air Force Special Operations. Sarasota-Manatee Chapter's retired Brig. Gen. Sandy Schlitt (center) conceived the movie initiative and worked to make it happen.

grams for U.S. Central Command at MacDill AFB. He is also the senior Special Operation officer on the CENTCOM Staff. Chief Reilly is the director of the Joint Special Operations Forces Senior Enlisted Academy, also at MacDill AFB.

Chief Reilly had a special connection to the film as he had met the four Navy Seals depicted in the movie. Approximately two months prior to the event featured in the movie, the Seals were part of a team that responded to assist a unit, in-

cluding then-Sergeant Reilly, that was engaged in a heavy fire fight with Taliban forces.

Attendees were invited to join a no-host lunch at the nearby Sal's New York Deli following the movie.

The chapter expressed thanks to chapter member Sandy Schlitt who conceived the movie imitative and who worked to make it happen.

Eglin and Hurlburt Support Air Force Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports Camps

For the second year in a row, the Air Force Wounded Warriors (AFW2) held an Adaptive Sports Camp in the Florida Panhandle. Both years, the Eglin Chapter (365) was asked to support it and this year, the Hurlburt Chapter (398) joined in to provide support. These camps are held around the country at no cost to our Wounded Airmen to foster teamwork, community, leadership, and a sense of mission during various stages of recovery. These camps, and the selection process leading up to the annual Warrior Games, are transformative for the airmen and their families, and AFA's Wounded Airman Program provides major support.

The camp was held for five days from 4-8 April and supports two categories of Wounded Airmen. The first category is "Warrior Care" for potential new athletes to come and see what events are available and try ones out which interest them. The second category involves Wounded Airmen selected to represent the Air Force in the Wounded Warrior Games in June. These camps enable them to practice and their training is amazing to be a part of and observe! The camps included a total of 160 people, with 30 caregivers plus an additional 75 volunteers each day, or about 200 a day.

This intense 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. training was for a total of five days. The two Chapters worked alongside the 96th Force Support Squadron Fitness Staff at Eglin and the 1st Force Support Squadron at Hurlburt Field to provide supplemental resources. Both Eglin and Hurlburt Chapters were able to supply healthy snacks and drinks, homemade cookies, pizza and soda, plus support an



Kari Hahn, (l-r) AFA national staff member; Susan Ault-Davis, Florida State Secretary Eglin Chapter member; and Eddie McAllister, Eglin Chapter member; along with others from the Hurlburt and Eglin chapters were on hand to help support the Air force Wounded Warriors Adaptive Sports Camp in the Florida panhandle. It was the second year for the Air Force Wounded Warrior sports camp in the Florida panhandle.

opening night social and Wednesday Care Night where Wounded Airmen were often introduced to AFA for the first time. Overall, our resources are a meaningful way to make a contribution to people who have sacrificed for our country.

All week the Wounded Airmen continued to humbly say "thank you" because they were touched by the simple acts of giving. They had plenty of water, Gatorade products for their water, healthy snacks, fruit, and lunch

items. At the end they said: "We look forward to returning next year. Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field and the community have been the BEST support we have received for two years running."

We are grateful to be able to contribute in support of the Air Force Wounded Warriors- both those who began their care program with this as a first time event, and those headed in June to the Warrior Games in West Point, New York.



The General Chuck Yeager Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron at MacDill AFB.

Tampa Bay Chapter helps CAP cadets with initiative called "Aspiring Diamonds"

The General Chuck Yeager Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron received a chapter grant of \$500 from the Tampa area's Waterman-Twining Chapter, which the squadron intends to use to help others.

This initiative, appropriately called "Aspiring Diamonds," (after the rank insignia for senior CAP cadet officers) provides for 10 cadets who otherwise would not be able to join the Civil Air Patrol due to financial limitations.

"This generous gift will go a long way to providing our best and brightest in the community with an opportunity to flourish and perhaps realize their career aspirations in either our Armed Forces or STEM disciplines," Capt. Keith Barry, squadron commander, said.

Since its inception, this initiative has helped five cadets. The squadron currently has 39 members and is growing rapidly each month.

Hurlburt supports East Panhandle Regional Science Fair



Michael Panarisi explains his project, "How Aerodynamics Affects the Speed of Pinewood Derby Cars." He was one of four to receive a certificate and check from Chapter 398.

Each Year the Hurlburt Chapter 398 provides aerospace science specialty judges to view and score the local high school and middle school grade science projects of the East Panhandle Regional Science Fair.

This year was no exception. On Feb. 3 Fred Gross, Max Friedauer, Susan Ault and Rick Soria viewed the projects on display at the fair. .

At the fair awards ceremony Hurlburt Chapter 398 President Jim Connors recognized the work of four students. AFA Certificates of Achievement in the Aerospace Sciences were awarded for projects entitled, "Save the Hubble," "Go with the Flow," "How Aerodynamics Affects the Speed of Pinewood Derby Cars," and "Shedding Light on Dark Energy." In addition to the certificates, each of the students received a check from Chapter 398.

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Cape Canaveral Chapter Supports Florida Authors

Cape Canaveral Chapter 309 of the Air Force Association organized and led the activities that resulted in eight local Florida authors displaying their recently written books.

The event was an unqualified success for the former military authors and two military spouses and covered both fictional and non-fiction topics.

All the authors wrote authentic accounts of experiences in various combat actions over the last 30 years and stories of military intrigue and political deception set in today's world of international strife. AFA Chapter 309 member, Air Force Retired Col. Gerald M. May wrote three books that were available for personal signing. His most recent book, entitled *Counter Balance*, deals with the use of a U. S. covert operations force to combat radical Islamist terrorism and jihadism that threatens the world.

The event was supported and co-sponsored by the local chapter of the Military Officers of America Association



Retired Air Force Col. Gerald M. May, a member of the Cape Canaveral Chapter, displayed his books at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center on Merritt Island.



Red Tail Chapter recruits three at Congressman's resource fair

Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 participated in U.S. Congressman Rich Nugent's Veterans Resource Fair in the Villages on May 21.

Howard Burke, chapter president, and chapter member Anthony Arnold set up an AFA information and recruitment table and recruited three new AFA members.

One of the new recruits is Air Force Retired Brig. Gen. John H. Grueser, who told Howard he had recently moved into the Red Tail Chapter area had previously served as an AFA vice president.

Congressman Nugent is a Red Tail Chapter member and is retiring from his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2017. His congressional leadership will be sorely missed.

Red Tail Memorial Chapter President Howard Burke (l-r) was joined by U.S. Congressman Rich Nugent and chapter member Anthony Arnold at Congressman Nugent's resource fair in The Villages.

General's Presentation Awes Miami Chapter

The history of U.S. Air Force special operations is one of great interest and is even more amazing when told by a person who, like Maj. Gen. Michael Plehn, has lived his Air Force career in special operations.

Those who attended the AFA Miami Chapter 317's April luncheon were treated to an informative insight into special operations command as told by an Air Force officer who has lived it. A native of Miami, General Plehn is the chief of staff, U.S. Southern Command.

General Plehn described the awesome tactical and military abilities of U.S. Air Force special operations community with its strong presence in the northern Florida area.

General Plehn is a great supporter of the AFA. (From afa317.blogspot.com)



News from the Air Force Association

Air Force Association and Veteran Tickets Foundation Announce Partnership

ARLINGTON, Va. (June 2) – The Air Force Association (AFA) today announced a new partnership with Veteran Tickets Foundation, (Vet Tix), a national nonprofit that provides free event tickets to service members and veterans. The partnership seeks to provide Air Force families with opportunities to receive free sports and entertainment event tickets with a very small delivery fee.

Vet Tix serves 375,000 “Vet Tixers” of which approximately 25 percent are affiliated with the Air Force. To date, Vet Tix has provided more than two million tickets to service members, veterans and their families from all branches of the military. With 95% of funding going directly back into the programs, Vet Tix distributes tickets to professional and collegiate sporting events, concerts, NASCAR, performing arts and family activities in all 50 states.

“The Air Force Association is delighted to provide this opportunity to our members and their families who have served and continue to serve our great nation, said Larry Spencer, President, Air Force Association. This partnership is just one way of saying thank you with opportunities to attend sporting events and concerts.”

Through this partnership, Vet Tix will also be providing tickets to wounded Airmen and their families to attend a Washington Nationals baseball game following a weekend of activities hosted by AFA’s Wounded Airman Program. This will mark the beginning of expanded collaboration to take care of our wounded Airmen.

“Where there are empty seats, Vet Tix seeks to fill them with people who have served our country and their families. Giving an event ticket is an expression of appreciation and recognition that honors the service of the troops today and long after their tour of duty has passed,” said Mike Focareto, Vet Tix Founder and CEO. “Attending these events helps veterans reduce stress through entertainment, strengthen family bonds, build life long memories, and encourage them to stay engaged with American life and local communities.” Learn more and apply for tickets. Visit www.VetTix.org/ref/464698.

CyberCamps to be Hosted at 85 Locations Throughout the United States

ARLINGTON, Va. (June 1) – The Air Force Association’s CyberPatriot program closed registration for its AFA CyberCamp Summer 2016 with a record number of camps scheduled. AFA CyberCamps will be held at 85 locations throughout the nation, reflecting a more than 220% growth from the previous year.

Featured camps include one to be hosted at Texas Women’s University, which hosted the first-ever AFA CyberCamp session in June 2014. Additionally, the CyberPatriot Program Office staff will travel to Menlo, California to work with Facebook, a CyberPatriot Silver Sponsor, to host a CyberCamp at the social media giant’s headquarters.

AFA CyberCamps were conceived to supplement CyberPatriot’s National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, which runs annually from October to March, and to allow educational institutions to engage students in cybersecurity education throughout the year. The AFA CyberCamp curriculum is designed to instruct novice students to learn about cyber ethics, online safety, and the fundamental principles of cybersecurity. AFA’s CyberCamp kit consists of instruction modules, demonstration software, and competition software. During these hands-on camps, students will learn important skills in cybersecurity, protecting a network, identifying potential threats, making systems more secure, and protecting themselves on the Internet.

There are no age restrictions on the student participants in the CyberCamp program, but given the curriculum’s targeted level of instruction, AFA’s CyberPatriot Program Office recommends camps recruit local 7th -12th grade students with little to no previous exposure to cybersecurity.

Supporters of CyberPatriot include Northrop Grumman Foundation, CyberPatriot’s Presenting Sponsor, as well as Cyber Diamond sponsors AT&T and the AT&T Foundation, Cisco, Microsoft, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense; Cyber Gold sponsors Facebook, Riverside Research, Splunk, and Symantec; and Cyber Silver sponsors Air Force Reserve, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Leidos, and University of Maryland University College.

Registration Now Open for AFA’s Premier Annual Air, Space & Cyber Conference

ARLINGTON, Va. (May 25) – The Air Force Association has opened registration for its premier annual conference and professional development event for the US Air Force. Themed *Airmen, Industry & Allies – A Global Security Team*, the newly named Air, Space & Cyber Conference will be held September 19-21 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center.

This event is an ideal opportunity for professional development for military, government, industry, and academic professionals interested in the latest in aerospace and cyber developments

Highlights include:

- More than 35 sessions, ranging from workshops to major addresses from DOD and Air Force leadership
 - Enlisted focus sessions with topics geared toward enlisted Airmen
 - Outstanding Airmen of the Year Dinner and the Air Force Anniversary Dinner
 - Naming of the B-21 bomber by Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James during her “State of the Air Force” presentation
- Visit the event website, www.afa.org/airspacecyber/ for full details including hotel reservation information, and to register.



Air Force Association Florida
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Air Force Association Mission

The Air Force Association mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. To accomplish this the Air Force Association strives to:

- **EDUCATE** the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security.
- **ADVOCATE** for aerospace power and STEM education.
- **SUPPORT** the total Air Force Family and promote aerospace education. Go to www.afa.org.



An Air Force B-52 Stratofortress leads a formation of aircraft, including two Polish Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons, four USAF F-16 Fighting Falcons, two German Eurofighter Typhoons, and four Swedish Gripens over the Baltic Sea, June 9, 2016. The formation was captured from a KC-135 from the 434th Air Refueling Wing assigned to Grissom AFB, Ind., as part of exercise Baltops 2016. (US Air Force photo by SrA. Erin Babis.) (Courtesy of Air Force Magazine)